

Monkey Keeper Paid More Than Hospital Guard

Dr. L. W. Salmon, Expert on Mental Diseases, Tells Why Veterans' Institution Management Is Criticized

Attendants a Poor Lot

Investigation of Alleged Brutality Reveals Haphazard Hiring of Help

The committee investigating conditions in Veterans' Hospital No. 81, the Bronx, whose hearings will be continued at 10 o'clock this morning, heard a severe criticism of the methods of the Veterans' Bureau yesterday from Dr. L. W. Salmon, noted psychiatrist and a professor at Columbia University. Dr. Salmon, who before the war was psychiatric expert for the Rockefeller Foundation in control of all doctors and nurses in charge of mental patients, scored the bureau for employing incompetent attendants for the care of the insane veterans and asserted that their system of inspecting the hospitals from the central office in Washington was absurd.

He declared that the physician who is to inspect this particular hospital was a surgeon and unqualified to pass upon the fitness of an institution for mental and nervous disorders. In the matter of attendants he said that it was impossible to employ the right type of men to care for the irrational when they are only paid \$50 to \$75 a month and maintenance.

"Why," he said, "the keepers in the monkey house at the zoo get \$150 a month."

Expert Offers Plan

Dr. Salmon was asked to appear before the committee by Major William D. Duggan, state commander of the American Legion, and in the course of his testimony made ten specific recommendations which, he said, were the result of tours of inspection through Hospital No. 81, as well as others in the Veterans' Bureau.

"Recognition of the fact that this hospital is a civilian one and our patients are civilians."

"Placing the rigid control from Washington which now causes the appointment of physicians, nurses and attendants and does not give the superintendent the responsibility and authority that all civil hospitals have."

"Placing place upon their local management."

"Giving the power of discharge of all employees who abuse or fail to care properly for patients to the superintendent."

"Increasing the pay of attendants by appointing only those whom the superintendent has personally examined and accepted."

"Permitting more free access to the hospital by a second local representative of the veterans' families and relatives."

"Discontinuing the practice of admitting patients of all kinds until personnel and facilities are ready for their reception."

"Establishing a system of censoring the mail of definitely irresponsible patients, the censor to require any letter addressed to a public official to be forwarded to the censor and any other letters to the next of kin of the patient with appropriate comments accompanying any letters which would be harmful to the patient."

"Employing only nurses who have had special training in mental diseases. Providing chaplains of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faith as actual members of the institution, with access to the patients at any time of day or night."

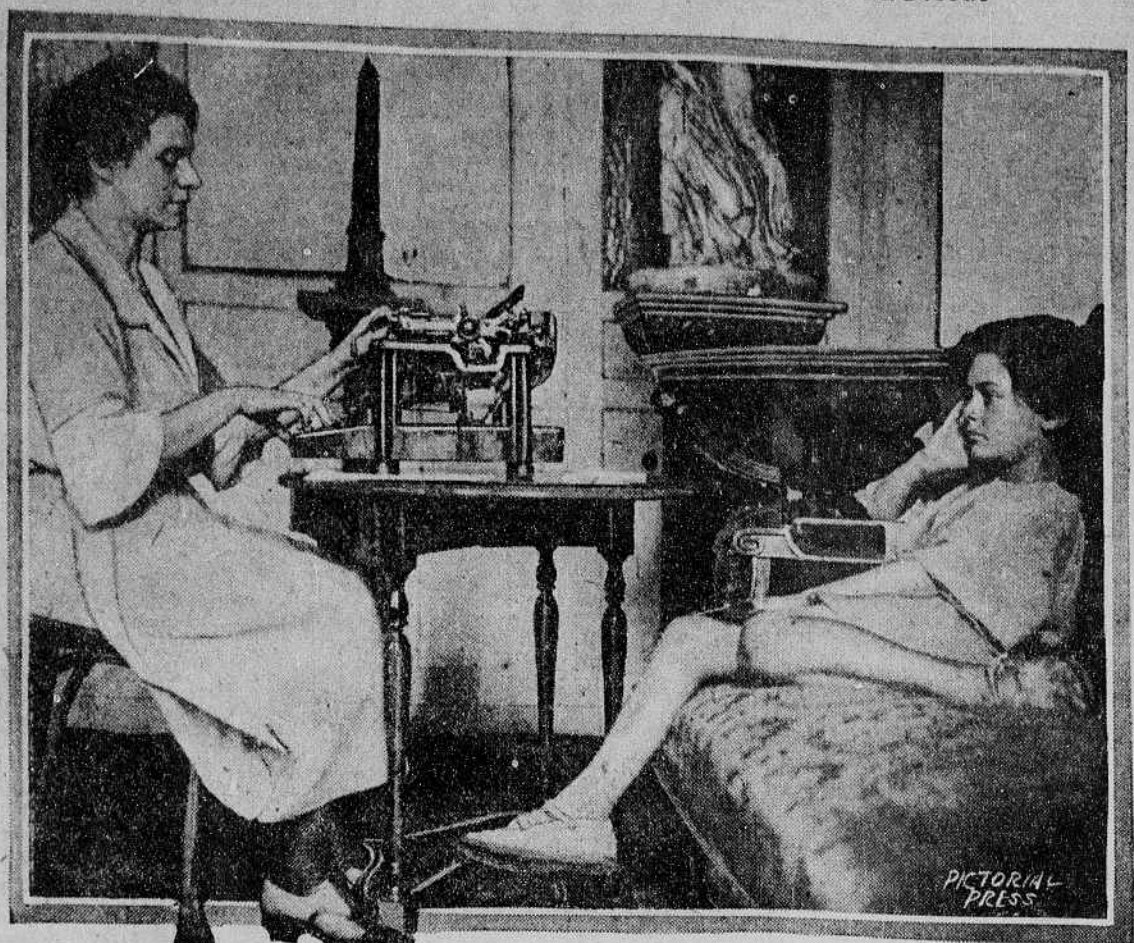
Commenting further on these recommendations, Dr. Salmon said that the ordinary graduate nurse was absolutely inadequate in a hospital for the insane and that the practice of surrounding such institutions with an air of secrecy was an excellent breeder of suspicion.

On regard to the charge that patients are brutally treated by attendants, Dr. Salmon declared that it must be recognized that force is necessary to restrain those who are not open to reason, but, he said, the attendants must be taught the difference between force and abuse.

At the opening of the session yesterday Dr. A. P. Chronquist, superintendent of the hospital, was again examined by Dr. Salmon, legal representative of the American Legion for the State of New York.

He testified that the nurses are assigned to the hospital by the Washington office of the Veterans' Bureau and the attendants are hired by the Veterans' Bureau. He said that he had complete jurisdiction over the hospital, and that several men had been discharged by him, but never for cause.

Boy Author of 100 Poems and His Mother



Constantinos Harpending Pavellou, eight years old, who sings praises of Greece in verse and whose parent, acting as his amanuensis, records them with a typewriter.

Eight-Year-Old Greek Poet Can Lick Boys Who Call Him 'Sis'

Constantine Harpending Pavellou, at 4, 'Lisped in Numbers' Like Late Mr. Wordsworth; Is Now Visiting Bay Ridge; He Likes Coney Island

Here is ancient Greece come to life again in the person of a small boy, just past his eighth birthday. His name is Constantinos Harpending Pavellou, and he might have stepped from the pages of mythology, in his peach-colored cotton tunic and white sandals. Constantinos was born in Corinth, Greece, but he has lived in California since he was two years old.

Constantinos writes poetry, not of the "little birdie" school, but poems about the sun and the trees and Greece, always Greece. They bound out of him, and his mother catches the words as they fall, until by now he has created about a hundred, which will be gathered into a volume to be published soon.

He was only four or five years old when he wrote these lines:

"Oh, wild waves, when storms do rise
When many a ship has sunk in these
September's, the rain, rain, rain,
I have had perfect content for all these
thousands of years."

And:

"Oh, Greece, thou breath of life;
Oh, Greece, thou eternal life;
Oh, Greece, thou dawn of the world;
Come, come, to send any other
Thou winged bird that flies in the open."

Constantinos will go back to Greece some day, he thinks. Next to Greece, he loves California, Mill Valley especially, where his home is. He calls New York ugly, though he loves its parks, Central, Bronx and Luna.

Fascinated by Coney
Coney Island fascinates him and he

may write a poem about it when he returns to his mother in California. He is with his aunt in Bay Ridge, waiting for his sick grandfather to recover sufficiently to make the trip across the continent with him.

Constantinos never knows when he is going to write a poem. He may be sitting by a window and brooding all alone when suddenly, as he explains it, he feels as if all nature were in him and he must speak. Out pour the phrases, rich in symbolism. But, though he never memorizes his poems, he can unforgettingly detect a wrong word that his mother may have written while recording his utterances.

One day he was watching a sun-streaked rainbow after a storm. Wildly excited, he called his mother.

"Metem," he cried, "I want to tell you a poem."

"A golden river flashed across the sky,
As golden as the sunset."

His uncle, who was in the room at the time, felt actually frightened at the sight of a youngster who swirled his colored scarf about him to emphasize each word.

There is every reason in the world why Constantinos should write poetry. His mother has a trunkful of verses she has written. His father is the editor of a Greek-American newspaper, "Prometheus," printed in California. His grandfather wrote a book.

The boy poet has not yet decided upon his future profession, but he is sure he will be an artist of some sort. He may write plays, for the few he has created so far have delighted him.

His parents do not, as to many other parents of prodigies have done, claim that their son is a "real boy," with a fondness for baseball and athletics. They do say that he is studious with living out of doors, and he has frequently thrashed boys of his own size who call him sissy for the clothes he wears.

Mrs. Emily Peers Held
As Abductor of Daughter

Accused of Kidnaping Child From Home of Divorced Husband's Parents

Mrs. Emily Tillshaw Peers, twenty-three years old, was arrested last night on the charge of kidnaping her four-year-old daughter, Margie Seville, and was held in \$5,000 bail when arraigned before City Judge Coleman at Long Beach, Cal.

Mrs. Peers is accused of abducting the child from the home of her divorced husband's parents, at 5843 Blackstone Avenue, Chicago, on the afternoon of September 7. The little girl was playing on the lawn when a woman drove up in an automobile. She left the car and after talking to the child suddenly lifted her over the railing, ran to the automobile and disappeared. A warrant was issued in Chicago for the arrest of Mrs. Peers.

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